2: Gervis T-2 (no date) 1984 AVI Kashmir AVI

time said to have been a common khidmutgar—that, is a table bearer. He had been taken under the care of Ranjit Singh as a boy of seven, became one of his generals and is credited with having overcome the Afghans, "whose women so feared him that to frighten their children they quoted his name in a low deep voice. He was a tyrant in Kashmir, from where he was called after his two years' service from 1820." So the fort is not really very old. It became the home of the Raja from that time on.

Ramper, thirteen miles off, is the next stage of the journey. The road makes a great detour because of the gradient, and follows the contours of the mountains, so avoiding having to cross the large precipitous-sided nullah; after two or three miles you are astonished to find yourself almost back to where you started, the rest house lying across it, being but an arrow-shot away. The hillsides are mostly covered with loose shale, which is a menace at all times, for the rains wash it down on to the road, whilst later when it is all dried out in the sun, the moisture which bound it no longer has its hold, and it slips, a single stone soon collecting tons of the stuff as it tumbles down the mountain side. Although one does get a few seconds' warning of its descent by the terrifying swish and rumbling of the greater boulders, that is of little use for with the echoes of the hills it is difficult to decide, in the short time, from where the sound comes. The yellowish to purple-brown rocks which have been seen all the way from Domel, have now changed to slaty schists; later along the road they are replaced by limestone, and with it the scenery changes; there is now a wild beauty, with glorious forest trees, the ground spread with ferns and flowering bushes; the hills recede, the more gentle slopes being covered with tall deodar trees, standing straight and firm. Great precipices of limestone rise up from pine forests; here and there a fir or pine will have found a foothold on some small ledge and clinging tightly bends out and upwards as though searching for its sisters who crown the hill; here the countryside is truly lovely, and as such has been mentioned right from the earliest writers. Here it is that the gallery—or flume—six miles long, carries the water which, dropping four hundred feet, powers the turbines generating electricity for the Valley. On the way there

312 Taking off from the right bank of the Chenab river the canal flows perennially over a total length of 24½ miles commanding an area of 15,000 acres. It is more of a protective than productive irrigation work and the expectation of a good return has not been fully realised as the zamindars are not keen to utilise canal water in spite of the low abiana rate.

312 *Ranbir Canal.*—This is the largest and most important canal in the State and was started with a project estimate of Rs. 1,700,000 in 1901 and opened in 1908. Taking off from the left bank of the Chenab near Akhnur and
376 following for the first 4½ miles in the line of the old Shahi canal it flows for 30 miles in the main channel and 212 miles in the distributaries (total 251 miles) and is capable of commanding an area of 108,000 acres. Besides serving as an irrigation channel for 16 miles, propelling the turbines of the Jammu Hydro-Electric installation which supply electricity for lighting the city of Jammu, running the Water Works purifying plant, driving the looms of the Secretariat Department and mills of the city, the canal has greatly ameliorated the condition of the rural population of the Jammu district and has proved a great productive work bringing a fair revenue to the State.

312 *Ranvirjee Canal.*—Commenced in 1914-15 with a project estimate of Rs. 200,000 and intended to irrigate 7,427 acres the irrigation from the canal has not been satisfactory as the discharge of 120 cusecs which could be taken into it under an agreement with the Punjab Government has proved very inadequate as the land being porous and stony absorbs a large percentage of this supply. The canal takes off from the right bank of the Ravi about 3 miles above the MacKeyper Head Works (Kathua) and has a total length of 13 miles. It has no *Rabbi* irrigation since under the agreement water can be drawn into it from 1st of April to 30th September only.

Ujh Canal.—Started in 1911 with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 250,000 the canal was completed only in 1923 i. e. during the current decade with a total length of 25 miles. It takes from the river Ujh and serves an area of 1,480 acres of land in the Jasrotgarh tehsil of the Kathua district.

Upper Jhelum Canal Distributaries.—These distributaries 8 in number, 15 miles in length and constructed at a cost of a lac of rupees take out from the Upper Jhelum Canal in the area through which the canal passes in the State territory. The total area of Mirpur and Bhimber tehsils expected to be irrigated was 7,600 acres but as for very little irrigation has been received as the average from the Upper Jhelum Canal has done considerable damage to this Ilaqa.

312 *Remote Kuhls.*—Besides the above irrigation works the following four
651 Kuhls have been constructed to help the irrigation in the Gilgit Agency and Ladakh Wazarat the income thereof is appropriated by the Revenue Department.

(i) *Kharbathang Kuhl* in Kargil tehsil.

(ii) *Saidul Puri Kuhl.*—A vast tract of uncultivated land near Saidul Puri and Chakorkot wanton between miles 10 and 21 of the Bandipur-Gilgit road was throwing for irrigational facilities in spite of its proximity to the busy Gilgit town. Scarcity of fodder and grain in Ilaqa and Gilgit and high temperature of the tract invited the attention of officers who in 1912 attempted the construction of a small *Kuhl* through a company of Sappers and Miners but the work was left incomplete. In 1911 construction of *Kuhl* from the Nullah on the other side of the hill range, about 4 miles above Jaglote village along with its Chakoran branch was started at an estimate of Rs. 30,145 and successfully completed in two years. The *Kuhl*, apart from irrigating 1,000 acres has proved a boon for travelling public by considerably modifying the climate of the district and providing homes for numerous Yagistanis and other people.